

REMARKS

Currently, claims 78-147 are pending in this application. Claims 1-77 have been canceled.

In a July 31, 2003, interview, now canceled claims 1, 33, 53, and 75-77 were discussed. Specifically, the differences between the present invention and the applied prior art were discussed. No agreement with respect to the claims was reached.

New claims 78-142 are similar in scope to canceled claims 1-77. No new matter has been added by the addition of these claims.

In a March 26, 2003, Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 18, 19, 33, 34, 40, 49, 50, 53, 54, 60, 69-72, and 75-77 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Klemmer* (U.S. Patent No. 3,731,620) in view of *Saueressig* (U.S. Patent No. 4,685,393), EP 181726, and *Kildune* (U.S. Patent No. 5,266,257). The Examiner rejected claims 20, 21, 51, 52, 71, and 72 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Klemmer* in view of *Saueressig*, EP 181726, and *Kildune*, and further in view of *Julian* (U.S. Patent No. 4,144,813). Claims 3-7, 35-39, and 55-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Klemmer* in view of *Saueressig*, EP 181726 and *Kildune*, and further in view of *Kildune* '257 (U.S. Patent No. 5,266,257). And, finally, the Examiner rejected claims 10, 41, and 61 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Klemmer* in view of *Saueressig*, EP 181726, and *Kildune*, and further in view of *Jones* (U.S. Patent No. 3,404,254).

In the Office Action, the Examiner argued that *Klemmer* discloses using a releasably attached sleeve with an engraved embossing pattern thereon on an

embossing roller having a rigid core so as to facilitate replacement of the engraved sleeve without having to remove the entire embossing roller from the machine. The Examiner admitted that *Klemmer* fails to disclose releasably attaching the sleeve to the roll by using pressurized gas, but argued that *Saueressig* cures this deficiency. Neither *Klemmer* or *Saueressig* discloses, however, (1) an elongated sleeve material having a hardness of less than 40 P&J, as recited in independent claims 78, 109, and 128, or (2) an air cushion being formed with air at a pressure of at least about 100 p.s.i. to about 300 p.s.i., as recited in independent claim 98.

To the contrary, *Klemmer* fails to disclose the hardness of the embossing sleeve and *Klemmer* neither discloses nor suggests using an air cushion for expanding the inner surface of the sleeve. *Saueressig*, on the other hand, discloses that the inner layer of the sleeve should have a Shore hardness of between 70 and 110 and that the air pressure supplied to the expand the inner surface of the sleeve should be at about 6 bar (atmospheres). The material hardness and air pressure disclosed in *Saueressig* are outside of the ranges claimed in the present invention.

In comparing the hardness disclosed in *Klemmer* against the recited hardness, it is necessary to compare different units for measuring hardness. In the Shore hardness system, the higher the Shore hardness number, the harder the material. In the P&J hardness system, the lower the P&J number, the harder the material. The hardest material disclosed in *Saueressig* has a Shore hardness of 110. A Shore hardness of 110 is approximately equal to a P&J hardness of 40. The claims recite that the elongated sleeve have a hardness of less than 40 P&J. Thus, the sleeve material disclosed in *Saueressig* is softer than that recited in the claims of the present invention.

Moreover, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a material having a higher hardness in the *Saueressig* system, as the low air pressure of the disclosed system is not sufficient to expand a sleeve having a higher hardness for insertion over the roll.

Regarding air pressure, *Saueressig* discloses that the air pressure should be about 6 bar (atmospheres), which is approximately 80 p.s.i. Claim 98 recites that the pressure is at least about 100 p.s.i. to about 300 p.s.i. Thus, *Saueressig* fails to disclose the recited pressure.

Additionally, none of the remaining prior art references cure these deficiencies as the references fail to disclose the recited material hardness and air pressure.

Thus, for at least the above reasons, independent claims 78, 98, 109, and 128, as well as those claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

New claims 143 - 146 recite, *inter alia*, a positioning means for selectively positioning said sleeve with respect to said core, wherein said positioning means includes at least one axially extending bore and a plurality of radially extending bores intersecting said axially extending bore, wherein at least one substantially circumferential groove in a surface of said core interconnects the distal ends of said radially extending passages, wherein said radially extending bores are capable of communicating pressurized air from said core to said circumferential groove. Claim 147 recites, *inter alia*, a positioning means for selectively positioning said sleeve with respect to said core, wherein said positioning means includes a substantially circumferential air curtain. Neither *Klemmer* or *Saueressig* at least disclose or suggest this structure. Specifically, *Klemmer* discloses no structure that is capable of

communicating pressurized air from a core to the inner surface of the sleeve. In *Saueressig*, on the other hand, the only structure described for communicating air from the core to the inner surface of the sleeve includes "one flat groove extending helically around the sleeve." (Col. 2, lines 62 - 65.) Additionally, neither *Kleemer* nor *Saueressig* disclose a positioning means including a substantially circumferential air curtain. Specifically, *Klemmer* discloses no structure for providing an air curtain, while *Saueressig* discloses a curtain provided by a helical groove. A helical groove will not provide a substantially circumferential air curtain. Moreover, the remaining prior art cited by the Examiner fails to disclose the recited structure for communicating pressurized air. Thus, for at least this reason, claims 143 - 147 are allowable.

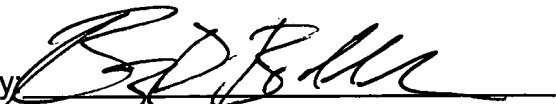
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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